

is content with the great strength she is getting, that strength which will make her so strong that there is no question of any Power or group of Powers in Europe provoking a quarrel with her, then everything will go well. If she was to use that strength, which I do not for the moment suppose she would, to obtain the dominating Napoleonic position in Europe, then I think there would be trouble."

Had Grey been speaking on the morrow instead of on the eve of the Agadir crisis, his picture would have had darker shadows. For the policy of Germany during the summer of 1911 strengthened his suspicions that she was pursuing what he called Napoleonic aims.

While the search for a political and naval agreement was abandoned "as hopeless in the spring of 1912, Anglo-German exchanges shifted from battleships and neutrality to regional pacts. The discussions on the Bagdad railway and the Portuguese colonies fill many hundred pages in our tenth volume. Agreement was reached in both cases, but the welcome *detente* changed nothing in the structure of Europe. * Since Agadir the Franco-German antagonism was worse than ever. The year which opened with the Haldane Mission closed with the Mediterranean Agreement and the Grey-Cambon letters. The formula of consultation, which France requested and obtained, seemed to Grey, though not to Poincare, to change nothing. When; moreover, France left her northern coasts exposed, and we no longer depended entirely on our own strength in the Mediterranean, the conclusion seemed inescapable that we were allies in everything but name.

In December; 1912, when the Balkan conflagration seemed likely to spread, Prince Henry of Prussia visited King George V at Sandringham and asked him a question point-blank. In the event of Germany and Austria going to

war with
Russia and France, would England come to the
assistance of
the two latter Powers ? " I answered
undoubtedly Yes in
certain circumstances," reported the King to
Grey. He
professed surprise and regret, but did not ask
what the certain
circumstances were. He said he would tell the
Emperor what
I had told him. Of course Germany must know
that we would
not allow either of our friends to be crippled."
Grey approved the reply and expkined his
own attitude:
" Your Majesty's Government is not committed
in the event
of war, and the public opinion of this country is,
so far as Sir